The Talk of the Town

Communication for Everyday Life

By The Producers

Hayden Corn
Bob Ogden
Luis Ross
Marcus Scarborough
Krista Howard
Jimmy Rodriquez
Christina Sanchez
Paige Walker

Edited by Jane Odom

Preface

This book was written in full by an amazing group of people who all use PRC devices as their main mode of communication. Each has a distinct personality which will be reflected in the variety of ideas provided. This project began when PRC hired this group to 'produce' materials for the company. They were recommended according to their communicative abilities and desire to help others. When talking about what would have been useful for them to learn during their many years of therapy, this project was suggested as the most needed. Much time was spent on vocabulary and usage but, not necessarily the practical use of such vocabulary or the pragmatics of effective communication. I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions of putting the ideas down in print. There was much laughter as well as a serious realization as to how important it is to teach someone to effectively use their voice. I learned that all of 'The Producers' have an overwhelming desire to be listened to and understood. We hope that this book will open such doors in your work as well.

Please enjoy the work, share it with others and most importantly….Let's get talking!!!

Jane Odom, M. Ed
Regional Consultant
Prentke Romich Company

How to Use this Book

From Hayden Corn

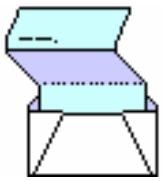
To the teachers and speech-language pathologists: This book is for you to help your student become faster with their communication device. We hope this will be a great help to the student. The way I would use this book is:

1. I would practice, and practice, and practice in the classroom.
2. Next I would role play with the student.
3. Finally, I would try it out in the community.

From Jimmy Rodriguez

This book is meant to show people what we can do with our communication device. We are the same like everybody else but, we can't talk. This book is good for whoever doesn't know about the communication device. They might understand more. The book is to give you better ideas. We hope this book will help you. You should try calling a place with whoever is using the communication device. You shouldn't use 'yes' and 'no' questions. You want them to practice making sentences.

Post Office



I need a book of stamps.

I need a box.

I want to send a package.

Can I get next day delivery?

I got this memo in my mailbox and would like to pick up a package.

Please stop my mail, I am going on vacation.

Are you hiring?

I would like to send a box of doughnuts to someone.

Take Out Food Order

I want (have your order ready).

My name is ……

My address is……

My phone number is……

How much will it cost?

Do you have doughnuts on the menu?

Restaurant

I would like to be seated in a non-smoking section

Can I get a booth?

What are your dinner specials?

How much does it cost?

What do you have to drink?

I would like a (have order ready) to drink please.

Where's the bathroom?

Can I have a spoon (or knife/fork) please?

When is your Happy Hour?

Do you have any hot sauce?

I need more napkins please.

Can you cook this more?

I would like my steak medium.

What do you have for dessert?

Do you know where my waitress is?

What is taking so long?

Can I have some more water (or other item)?

Can I get the check?

Can we have separate checks?

I am paying with a credit card.

I would like my doughnut to go please.

Grocery Store

I want a savings card.

Where is (name item)?

I need someone to buy my food and go through the store to help me.

Where are the scooters please?

Can you help me find (name item)?

Can I get a two pound steak please?

I would like to buy hamburger meat.

Can I get a bottle of wine?

Could you help me to put my food on the counter please?

I need a book of stamps.

Can I have a bag of ice?

Can somebody help me to my car?

Do you have any empty boxes?

Are the doughnuts fresh?

Bakery

Do you deliver for parties or holidays?

Can I have a cake made?

What kind of pies do you have?

How much will that be?

I want something to drink.

Can I pay with a credit card?

I want a big doughnut please?

Are they real doughnuts?

Movie Rentals

Can I get a membership card?

What do I need for a membership?

How much is a membership?

Where are the new releases?

Where is the children's section?

What games do you have?

When is the movie due?

Where's the closest doughnut shop?

Haircut

Hi, how are you?

Do I need an appointment?

I want a trim.

Shave me bald.

Can you give me a flattop?

Do you know how to give me a flattop?

How do I look?

Do you think my girlfriend/boyfriend will like my haircut?

Hmmmm, sure could go for a doughnut.

Library

Can you help me find a book?

Can I get a library card?

What do I need to get a library card?

Where is the computer lab?

Can you sit with me and help me with the computer?

Do you have this book (name title)?

Did you read this?

When will you get this book in?

Can I check this book out?

Where is the bathroom?

Where is the water fountain?

Can you eat doughnuts in here?

Airport

I have one bag.

I need help finding my airplane.

I lost my group.

I have a disability, can I go on first?

I have a problem getting on the plane, can I get help?

Can I get a drink?

Can I get something to eat?

Can you help me transfer to my other plane?

When do we take off?

I want to order a special meal.

I need help with my bag.

Please don't yell at me, I am not deaf.

Are there any doughnuts on board?

Drugstore

I need medicine.

I have a problem with my nose.

I need help getting out my money to pay.

How much does it cost?

Please put the receipt in my wallet.

I use a stamp to sign my name on my check.

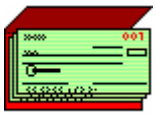
Do you take my insurance?

Can I pay with a credit card?

Can you tell me how much to take?

Can I eat a doughnut while on this medicine?

Bank



I need to speak to a banker please.

I would like to transfer some money from my checking to my savings.

I would like my checking account balance.

I would like to apply for a home loan.

Can I have $75.00 from my account?

Could you please be patient with me, I use a device to speak.

I need to make a deposit.

Why am I overdrawn from my account?

Can you help me use the ATM machine?

Can I apply for a check card?

Can you explain on line banking?

Are these doughnuts for everyone?

Movies

Hello, I would like to see a movie.

What time is the movie?

How much is a ticket?

Is the movie good or bad?

I want some candy please.

Which way is the movie?

Where are the restrooms?

I would like to order popcorn and a soda please.

What kind of drinks do you have?

Is there accessible seating?

Do you have doughnuts?

Dentist

Can you check my tooth because it is bothering me?

How much does it cost?

Could you wait while I get my Pathfinder (or other device)?

Put me to sleep.

Do you take my insurance?

This hurts me very much.

I have cavities.

Is it time to go home?

I need a break.

When will I be able to eat a doughnut?

Doctor's Appointment

I feel sick

I need to see my doctor.

Can I get an appointment?

Please be patient and listen to me first.

How much is my bill?

Why is it taking so long?

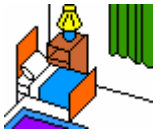
My back hurts, I need to see a chiropractor.

Please talk to me, not my assistant.

I don't like to take pills, please get my liquid.

I am sick from eating too many doughnuts.

Hotel



I would like to get a room.

How much are they?

I need an accessible room please.

Do you have any rooms available?

I would like to put it on my credit card.

What time is check out?

Do you have doughnuts for breakfast?

Device Etiquette

Please talk to me, not my assistant.

I just have good old cerebral palsy,

I’m not stupid.

Please talk to me, not my device.

I need help to call for a ride.

I can hear, you don’t have to yell.

I know that my mouth is easier, but

people can understand me better with my

communication device. Please wait.

Please don’t be afraid of my

communication device.

Could you please be patient with me, I

am speaking with a communication

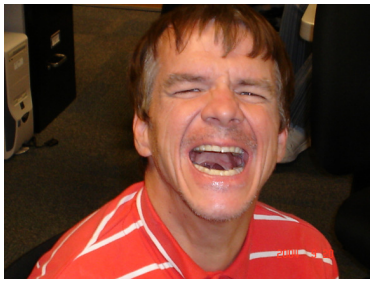
device.

Please don’t hang up on me, I use a

computer to speak.

The Producers

Hayden Corn – My name is Hayden Corn. I have been using an augmentative and alternative communication device for ten years. I am a graduate of CSUN Assistive Technology of 1999. I like to help the disabled people learn their communication devices and teach lifeskills. My favorite thing to do is my family history.



Krista Howard–My name is Krista Howard. I am eighteen. I have had my Pathfinder for five years. I use it all the time with my friends, teachers and my family. I am in twelfth grade at Foothills High School in Goodyear, Arizona.

Bob Ogden

My name is Bob. I use the Pathfinder communication device. I got the Pathfinder in May of 2001, and I have had it for three and a half years. Before, I had the DeltaTalker and I did not like it as much. I am a ninth grade student at Stapley Junior High School. I'm cool. I like pop music. I like the Now CDs. What I like to do on the weekends is sleep and eat and listen to music. I have a job at the Prenke Romich Company testing out the equipment. I love my job.

Santiago 'Jimmy' Rodriquez

My name is Jimmy. I am twenty-six. I have been using a Pathfinder for about three years. Before the Pathfinder, I had a Liberator. Before the Liberator, I had a Lighttalker. They helped me with schooling and at home. Plus, I can meet friends. I was working at UHaul for about a year. I like to go out to places like to eat and hang with friends.

Luis Ross

Hello, my name is Luis Ross. I'm from Mexico, but I was adopted when I was four years old by an American man. I was born with cerebral palsy. When I was in high school, I got my first device that was a Liberator that weighed about twelve or thirteen pounds. But, at the end of my high school years, I got my Pathfinder. I just love it everyday because I can be very independent. I have used a device for eighteen years. I don't call it my Pathfinder, but I like to call it my 'baby'. I give thanks to the man who created this device for disabled people everyday. He is a big angel.

Christina Sanchez

My name is Christina. I am using Pathfinder for five years. I was born in California. I love to talk with my Pathfinder. I did go to North Canyon High School for five years. My Pathfinder is a very special thing to me because I don't feel like everybody talks for me. And also I have a boyfriend, Luis, that uses a Pathfinder too.

Marcus Scarborough

Hello, my name is Marcus Scarborough. I am twenty-one years old. I have been using my Pathfinder and a Liberator for eight years. I am working for Excaliber machines for one year. My favorite things to do are playing my Play Station 2, Yu-Gi-Oh trading cards game and driving my car.

Paige Walker

My name is Paige Noel Walker. I am sixteen years old. My birthday is December eighteenth. I attend Accel school. I use this Vanguard communication device to speak. I have my computer for four years.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Southwest Human Development for providing a place to meet. We would especially like to thank Deanna Wagner for her dedication to the project. We would also like to thank Shelley Walker, Chase Odom and Robert Ogden for lending a hand when needed….or simply going on the much needed milkshake run.